

Subject: Collaborations and Creativity Abound in LA

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DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
City of Los Angeles

Dear friends and community members,

On March 21, DCA -- in partnership with the Department of Recreation and Parks and the Los Angeles Public Library -- was privileged to host Mayor Eric Garcetti at our newest Community Arts Center, the **Lincoln Heights Youth Arts Center**, which shares its space with the Department of Recreation and Parks' Lincoln Heights Youth Complex, for the first-ever [Cities' Day of Immigration Action](#). This was an effort led by Mayor Garcetti in collaboration with mayors in more than 60 cities to mobilize law enforcement, faith leaders, legal advocates, and community organizations in affirming the indispensable role of immigrants in American life. The goal is to connect people with the resources they need to protect themselves and their families.



Our team at the Department of Cultural Affairs could not be more thrilled about the recent announcement by the Los Angeles City Council proclaiming April as **Literature and Poetry Month** Honoring DCA's The Big Read Program in Los Angeles! You can find out about all of [The Big Read events around town on our website](#).



At the [Watts Towers Arts Center](#) DCA opened the exhibition **Sankofa: The Wisdom of Learning from**

the Past to Build the Future by La Monte Westmoreland in March. Born in Wisconsin, La Monte Westmoreland moved to California as a young adult and studied art at Los Angeles City College and California State University LA. He is a visual artist and educator that combines painting, collage, and assemblage to create unique artworks, taking a critical look at racism in America. The show closes August 6, 2017.

SANKOFA
SANKOFA
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SANKOFA
SANKOFA

by La Monte Westmoreland

The wisdom of
learning from the
past to build for
the future

OPEN RECEPTION
SUNDAY MARCH 26, 2017 at 1:00pm



Noah Purifoy Gallery: March 19, 2017–August 6, 2017
Charles Mingus Gallery: March 19, 2017–March 4, 2018

As a progressive and innovative civic arts agency, the Department of Cultural Affairs is excited to participate in a collective effort with the Los Angeles County Arts Commission to improve our arts ecosystem; together we are presenting the inaugural [Los Angeles Arts Datathon](#) on April 22. The event will bring together people from across the region to examine the significance of arts data for all residents and visitors. At this initial arts datathon, participants will explore available data to gain a greater understanding of how we can increase access to arts, build infrastructure, and promote policy across the Los Angeles region.



DCA is honored to be partnering with the [Los Angeles Promise Zone](#), [Alliance for California Traditional Arts](#), and [LA Commons](#) to present [Promise Zone Arts](#), a two-year cultural asset mapping initiative that celebrates many cultural treasures: people, places, and things that the residents of the Promise Zone find culturally, historically, and aesthetically meaningful. We kicked off the initiative this past Tuesday with Deputy Mayor Barbara Romero, Council Member Gil Cedillo, artists, community members, and cultural partners to launch this exciting program.



Finally, I will conclude by highlighting the work of DCA Art Center Director, **Angelica Loa Perez**. As an arts administrator, urban planner, and musician, Angelica is passionate and talented. She currently leads the team at [Lincoln Heights Youth Arts Center](#), with an array of beginner to intermediate music-based classes for young people, including Son Jarocho, Violin, Guitar, Piano, Percussion, and Music and Movement for the little ones. She exudes her enthusiasm to show that performing arts are indeed a valid and valuable form of public art that contribute to positive community identity and development. Angelica has been with DCA since 2005, when she started part-time after completing her graduate work at USC. She demonstrated her dedication by being an indispensable part of the team that launched DCA's Music LA Program, crafting diverse music education programming with local non-profit organizations to create hands-on classes highlighting Latino, African American, American Indian, and Asian and Pacific Islander cultures as part of the City's Official Heritage Month Celebrations. Angelica currently oversees programming at the newest DCA Cultural and Community Arts Center in Lincoln Heights that serves about one hundred children per session and has a vision to grow the center's capacity by engaging multi-disciplinary arts programming with local and regional partners to benefit the local community.



Thank you for celebrating the rich and diverse creative forms of expression taking place throughout our city!

Sincerely,



Danielle Brazell
General Manager
City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs

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IMAGE CREDITS: (top to bottom) Mayor Eric Garcetti with staff from Department of Recreation and Parks, Los Angeles Public Library, and Department of Cultural Affairs at the shared community center between DCA and DRP: Lincoln Heights Youth Arts Center/ Lincoln Heights Youth Complex, image courtesy of Mayor Eric Garcetti; LA City Council Member Mitch O'Farrel with DCA GM Danielle Brazell, students, and the team behind The Big Read Program in LA, image courtesy of DCA; Exhibition Flyer, image courtesy of Watts Towers Arts Center; Arts Datathon Promotional Image, background image of LA cityscape by Giuseppe Milo licensed under CC 2.0; LA Promise Zone community members including partner organizations CARACEN, LA Commons, ACTA, Promise Zone Los Angeles, YPI, and Ko's Korean Traditional Dance Institute, image courtesy of DCA; portrait of Angelica Loa Perez at Lincoln Heights Youth Arts Center, image courtesy of DCA.

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